1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Haendler on 2/18/10.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the tracer gas comprises carbon dioxide.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the filter comprises a filter housing and soda lime contained in the housing for absorbing carbon dioxide from the air flowing through the filter.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the filter is capable of filtering all of the tracer gas flowing through the filter.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein:
the tracer gas comprises carbon dioxide; and
the filter is capable of filtering all of the carbon dioxide from the air flowing through the filter.

6. (Original) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the enclosure comprises an operator cab.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for leak testing the ventilation system of an environmental enclosure, the method comprising:

inducing air surrounding the enclosure to flow through the ventilation system and a gas filter positioned in the ventilation system into the enclosure to establish positive pressure in the enclosure;

filtering a tracer gas from the air flowing through the gas filter, the tracer gas comprising a gas naturally present in the air surrounding the enclosure;

~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~

determining the expected predetermined concentration of tracer gas inside the enclosure ~~due to losses through~~ based upon the specifications of the filter;

measuring the lowest achievable concentration of tracer gas inside the enclosure; and

detecting for the presence of leaks in the ventilation system by comparing the lowest achievable concentration of tracer gas inside the enclosure to the expected predetermined concentration of tracer gas inside the enclosure ~~due to losses through~~ based upon the specifications of the filter, wherein the presence of leaks in the ventilation system is indicated if the lowest achievable concentration of tracer gas exceeds the expected predetermined concentration of tracer gas.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for leak testing the ventilation system of an environmental enclosure, the method comprising:

inducing air surrounding the enclosure to flow through the ventilation system and a gas filter positioned in the ventilation system into the enclosure to establish positive pressure in the enclosure so as to replace air exiting the enclosure;

filtering a tracer gas from the air flowing through the gas filter, the tracer gas comprising a gas naturally present in the air surrounding the enclosure;

~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~

calculating the predetermined time required for the concentration of the tracer gas inside the enclosure to reduce to a predetermined level at a predetermined leakage based upon the specifications of the filter; and

measuring the ~~actual~~ time required for the concentration of the tracer gas inside the enclosure to reduce to the predetermined level to determine if the measured time is greater than the calculated predetermined time, which is an indication that a leak exists in the system ~~whether the leakage of the ventilation system is less than the predetermined leakage~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the tracer gas comprises nitrogen.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the tracer gas comprises oxygen.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the tracer gas comprises argon.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 17, wherein the tracer gas comprises carbon dioxide.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the filter comprises soda lime for filtering carbon dioxide from the air flowing through the filter.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 17, wherein the filter is capable of filtering all of the tracer gas flowing through the filter.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 17, wherein:
the tracer gas comprises carbon dioxide; and
the filter is capable of filtering all of the carbon dioxide from the air flowing through the filter.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for leak testing a ventilation system, the method comprising:

inducing air outside of an enclosure to flow through the ventilation system and a gas filter positioned in the ventilation system into the enclosure so as to establish positive pressure inside the enclosure, wherein the filter filters a tracer gas from the air flowing through the filter, the tracer gas comprising a gas naturally present in the air surrounding the enclosure;

measuring the concentration of tracer gas inside the enclosure; and

detecting for the presence of leaks in the ventilation system from the concentration of the tracer gas inside the enclosure;

~~The method of claim 12, comprising:~~

wherein detecting for the presence of leaks in the ventilation system comprises determining the expected predetermined concentration of tracer gas inside the enclosure ~~due to losses through~~ based upon the specifications of the filter; and

comparing the measured concentration of tracer gas inside the enclosure to the expected predetermined concentration of tracer gas inside the enclosure ~~due to losses through~~ based upon the specifications of the filter to determine whether there are any leaks in the ventilation system, wherein the presence of leaks in the ventilation system is indicated if the measured concentration of tracer gas exceeds the expected predetermined concentration of tracer gas.

18-26. (Canceled)

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In addition to the remarks of record, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed method of testing a filter for a leak by comparison of the filters specified leak performance and the corresponding expected amount of tracer to the actual amount of tracer detected in the system while under positive pressure. If the amount of tracer gas inside the system exceeds the level expected by the specified performance

of the filter, a leak in the filter is detected. Additionally, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest a method of testing a filter for a leak by comparison of the filters specified rate/time of removing the tracer to the amount of tracer that is in the system while under positive pressure. If the rate/time for removal of the tracer exceeds the specified rate/time of tracer removal for the filter, then there is a leak in the system.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LYLE A. ALEXANDER whose telephone number is (571)272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday though Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LYLE A ALEXANDER/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797